

A NEW SPECIES OF STIFFTIA FROM CAYENNE

(ASTERACEAE: MUTISIEAE)

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A specimen collected in French Guiana has proven to represent a new species in the distinctive Mutisiean genus Stiffitia, the first species of the genus known to occur outside of Brazil. The new species has a large, colored, multiseriate pappus as the most prominent floral feature in the dried plant as is seen in the other three species of the genus. The reddish color of the pappus and viny habit are characters shared with the geographically closest member of the genus, S. uniflora Ducke of northern Amazonas, northern Par , and Amapa in Brazil. The species is immediately distinguishable by its larger heads with three flowers rather than one flower.

STIFFTIA CAYENNENSIS H. Robinson and B. Kahn, sp. nov.

Plantae volubilis lignosae. Caulis in diametro ad 5-6 cm in corticibus profunditer longitudinaliter fissis in partibus juvenalibus teretes striati appresse pilosuli. Folia alterna, petiolis 1.0-1.2 cm longis; laminae coriaceae obovatae 7-16 cm longae 2.8-3.5 cm latae base cuneatae margine integrae apice breviter late acuminatae supra et subtus glabrae vel sparse pertenuiter arachnoideo-pilosulae, nervis majoribus supra anguste exsculptis subtus exsculptioribus, nervis secundariis paucis inferioribus valde ascendentibus parallelis superioribus sensim brachidromis, nervulis minute reticulatis utrinque prominulis. Inflorescentiae in ramis terminales pyramidaliter thyrsoidae, ramis subtomentellis, pilis base breviter erectis cetera abrupte appresse tenuiter arachnoideis, bracteis inferioribus breviter petiolatis in laminis late ellipticis 8-25 mm longis, bracteis superioribus minutis subulatis 2.5-3.0 mm longis sparse appresse arachnoideo-tomentellis, ramis ultimis plerumque 15-25 mm longis. Capitula ca. 3 cm alta et 1.5 cm lata; squamae involucri brunneo-violaceae 10-12 subimbricatae ca. 3-4-seriatae graduatae ovatae 2-12 mm longae et 1.5-5.0 mm latae apice acutae extus minute striatae glabrae. Flores 3 in capitulo; corollae tubiformes ca. 2 cm

longae glabrae, tubis ca. 11 mm longis, faucibus subnulli, lobis 5 linearibus ca. 9 mm longis ad 0.9 mm latis; thecae ca. 5.5 mm longae in appendicibus basilaribus ca. 1.5 mm longae breviter acuminatae denticulatis non papilloso-fimbriatis; appendices apicales antherarum ovato-lanceolatae ca. 2.5 longae apice vix acuminatae; basi stylorum incrassati; rami stylorum apice rotundati. Achaenia cylindracea ca. 9 mm longa subtomentella, pilis e basi breviter erecti cetera abrupte appresse tenuiter arachnoideis; setae pappi roseae ca. 100 ca. 3-seriatae plerumque 5-20 mm longae apice leniter tenues margine scabridulo-fimbriatae. Grana pollinis prolata ca. 62 μ m longa et 40 μ m lata vix papillata.

TYPE: CAYENNE: Route de Saint Laurent à Paul Isnard entre le PK 70 et Citron au PK 118. Liane atteignant 5-6 cm de \emptyset , écorce crevasse longitudinalement profondément. Feuilles alternes coriaces, glabres. Inflorescence terminale sur les rameaux latéraux; bractées brun violacé, couronne de poils rouges. 7-9-83. G. Cremers 8153 (Holotype, US).

Stiffitia cayennensis differs from the related S. uniflora most obviously by the larger heads with three flowers, but also differs in its basically larger more obovate leaves, its broader achenes with more pubescence that is like that on the peduncles, and by the somewhat shorter pappus bristles. A microscopic difference is seen on the lanceolate basal appendage of the anther thecae which has only low broad teeth. The appendage of S. uniflora is less tapered and is densely fringed with numerous distinct papillae.

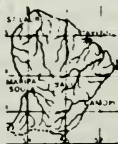
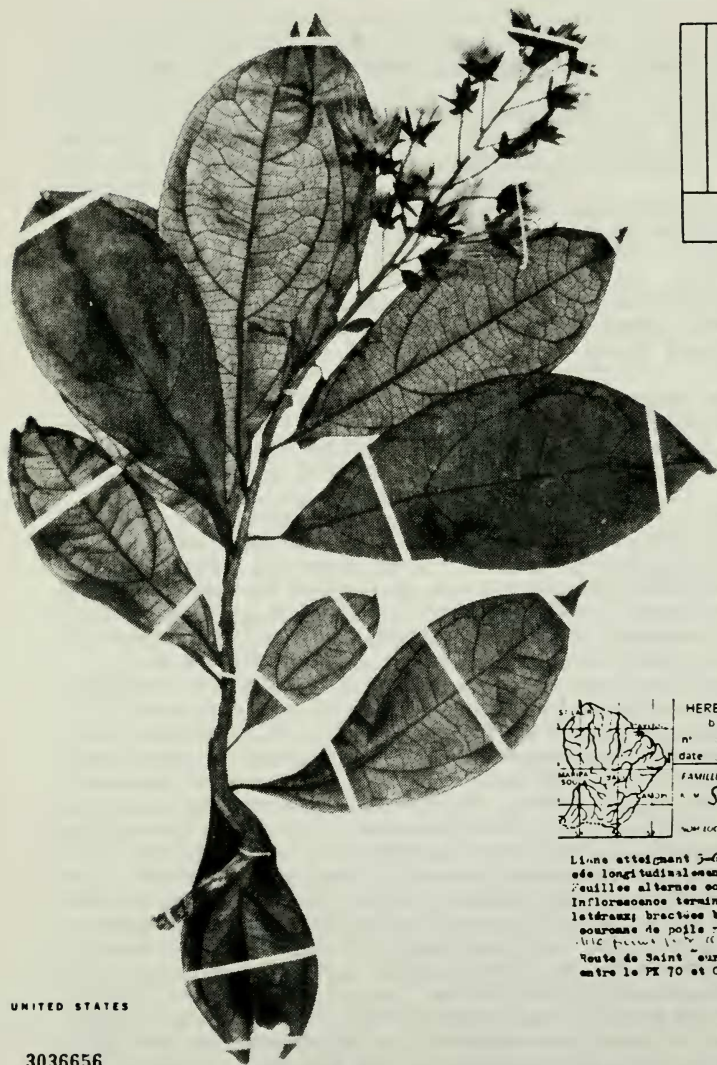
The new species is thus far known only from northern French Guiana, but is no farther from some localities of S. uniflora than some of the latter's localities are from each other. Stiffitia uniflora, originally described from the Rio Negro of northern Amazonas in Brazil, has since been collected far to the east in Amapa, and near the border between Amapa and northern Pará. The range of mountains that separates the ranges of the two species seems to provide effective separation primarily by isolating the river drainage patterns of French Guiana from those of the Amazon.

Maguire et al. (1957:388) mention some doubt that Stiffitia uniflora is generically compatible with the other two species of Stiffitia, P. chrysantha Mikan, and S. parviflora D. Don from farther south in Brazil, but they note that the alliance is closer than to other members of the Gochnatinae of the Mutisieae. There seems to be no reason to recognize the two

groups of species as anything more than two subgroups within one genus. The pollen of the new species is basically like that of *S. uniflora*, and lacks the areas of thickened exine described for *S. chrysantha* by Carlquist (1957).

Literature Cited

- Carlquist, S. 1957. Anatomy of Guayana Mutisieae. *Memoires New York Botanical Garden* 9:441-476.
- Maguire, B., J. J. Wurdack, and collaborators. 1957. Compositae. In *The Botany of the Guayana Highland--Part II*. *Memoires New York Botanical Garden* 9:366-392.



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FAMILLE Rubiacées

Stiffia cayennensis

H. Robinson & B. Kahn

NUM. LOCAL

Liane atteignant 2m de f., écorce crevas-
sée longitudinalement profondément
Feuilles alternes coriaces, glabres
Inflorescence terminale sur les rameaux
latéraux; bractées brun violacé
couronne de pille rouge (bractées)
COTE FRANÇAISE N° 16013
Route de Saint-Jacques à Paul Jemard
entre le PK 70 et Citron au PK 118

UNITED STATES

3036656

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Stiffia cayennensis H. Robinson and B. Kahn,
Holotype, United States National Herbarium. Photo by
Victor E. Krantz, Staff Photographer, National Museum
of Natural History.